E/2012/26-
E/CN.5/2012/9

United Nations

Commission for Social Development

Report on the fiftieth session (18 February 2011 and 1-10 February 2012)

Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2012
Supplement No. 6

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United Nations • New York, 2012

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.

ISSN 0251-964X

Summary

At its fiftieth regular session, held on 18 February 2011 and from 1 to 10 February 2012, which was the policy year of a biennial cycle, the Commission for Social Development considered the priority theme "Poverty eradication", taking into account its interrelationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all. The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

At the opening of the session, the Commission was addressed, inter alia, by the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. During its two-week session, the Commission convened two high-level panel discussions — one on the priority theme, and the other on the emerging issue of "Youth: poverty and unemployment" — and a special event on the theme "Financing of social development".

The Chair's summaries of the discussions on the priority theme and on the emerging issue of youth poverty and unemployment, as well as the special event on financing of social development, can be accessed at http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx.

In connection with the review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Special Rapporteur on disability presented his report to the Commission.

The Commission adopted draft resolutions entitled "Poverty eradication", "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development", "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda", "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" and "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development", and recommended to the Economic and Social Council their adoption.

In its resolution on its future organization and methods of work, the Commission decided that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle should be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all".

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006 and 2008/19 of 24 July 2008 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also its resolution 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, in which it noted the usefulness of identifying the theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle during the fiftieth session of the Commission,

1. *Reaffirms* that the current practice of discussing one core issue over a two-year period has allowed the Commission for Social Development to go into greater depth by also addressing related cross-cutting issues and emerging issues relevant to the theme under discussion;

2. *Decides* to maintain the two-year review and policy cycle;

3. *Reaffirms* that the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should continue to be elected for a term of office of two years, in parallel with the review and policy cycle;

4. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2013-2014 review and policy cycle should be "Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all";

5. *Stresses* the importance of identifying relevant subthemes within the priority theme, in order to focus interventions and discussions, and of taking into account cross-cutting issues during the next sessions of the Commission for Social Development;

6. *Decides* that the Commission should utilize, as appropriate, its agenda item on emerging issues to promote consideration of relevant issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, including the theme of the annual ministerial review;

7. *Invites* all relevant stakeholders to continue to participate in the work of the Commission at an appropriately high level;

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 5-8.

8. *Decides* that the Commission should keep its methods of work under review, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session on ways and means to strengthen its work, taking into account the views of Member States.

Draft resolution II
Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] and recalling the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[5] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002[6] and General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit[4] and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[7]

Noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union Summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Noting also the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development into the structures and processes of the African Union and the establishment of the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union to replace the secretariat of the New Partnership,

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* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 11-21.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[6] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[7] See General Assembly resolution 63/1.

Remaining concerned that while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Expressing deep concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

Recognizing that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[8] and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, New Partnership for Africa's Development partners and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the international initiatives related to Africa, such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, co-organized by the African Union, the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the Government of Japan,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[9]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[8] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country

[8] A/57/304, annex.

[9] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[10] E/CN.5/2012/2.

support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Welcomes in particular* the organization of the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, and the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to 25 November 2010, under the theme "Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion", and recalls in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;[11]

6. *Emphasizes* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa;

7. *Also emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

8. *Further emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

9. *Emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptably high poverty levels and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

[11] Available from www.africa-union.org.

10. *Also emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

11. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

12. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

13. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010-2015, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners;

14. *Recognizes* the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities;

15. *Urges* continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, the empowerment of women, in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

16. *Underscores* the importance for African Governments to raise agricultural productivity in order to increase rural incomes and access to food for net food buyers, that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers to necessary agricultural resources and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

17. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the *Second Decade (2008-2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of* 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the

internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

18. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth, capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, and of reducing inequalities and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

19. *Urges* African countries and development partners to tackle the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

20. *Encourages* all development partners to implement principles of aid effectiveness, as recalled in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;[12]

21. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

22. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

23. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership for Africa's Development into their development assistance programmes;

24. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of Government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base to address poverty and vulnerability;

25. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

26. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive

[12] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

27. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

28. *Encourages* the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

30. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard, requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as appropriate;

31. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development at its fifty-first session;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009 and 64/258 of 16 March 2010, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-first session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to the New Partnership, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies, while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Draft resolution III
Poverty eradication*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, in which the Council decided that the priority theme for the 2011-2012 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development should be poverty eradication, taking into

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 40-52.

account its relationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all,

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[13] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[14] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[15] the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[16]

Recalling also the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[17]

Emphasizing the need to enhance the role of the Commission for Social Development in the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that an enabling environment at all levels therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously,

Recalling that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development places people at the centre of development,

Stressing that respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, is of crucial importance for all policies and programmes to fight extreme poverty,

Recognizing that empowering people to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource and that empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of our society,

Concerned about the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all parts of the world, in various economic, social and cultural situations, and that its extent and its manifestations are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging

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[13] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[14] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[15] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[16] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[17] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Expressing concern that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recalling the commitment to invest in children and our vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty,

Expressing concern that unemployment and underemployment levels remain persistently high in many countries, particularly among the younger generations,

Recalling the International Labour Organization Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization[18] and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up,[19]

Affirming its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirming that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, including in all developing countries, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development and their effective use are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the special event on the financing of social development organized by the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Chair of the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development, held on 3 February 2012,

Recognizing that social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress,

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[18] A/63/538-E/2009/4, annex.

[19] Adopted on 18 June 1998 by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-sixth session.

Recalling that the theme of the Economic and Social Council for the 2012 annual ministerial review will be "Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

Recognizing the importance of agricultural and rural development and food production for the eradication of poverty and for helping developing countries to reach the poverty and hunger targets of the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development, which is critical for the eradication of poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[20]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[13] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up to and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support for its work;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

5. *Also emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the International Conference on Financing for Development, in its Monterrey Consensus,[21] have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

6. *Reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

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[20] E/CN.5/2012/3.

[21] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

7. *Expresses deep concern* that the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, the volatile food and energy prices and food insecurity and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as the lack of results so far in the multilateral trade negotiations, have negative implications for social development;

8. *Emphasizes* that poverty eradication policies should tackle poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated into those policies;

9. *Stresses* that poverty eradication policies should, inter alia, ensure, for people living in poverty, access to education, health, social protection, water and sanitation and other public and social services, as well as to productive resources, including credit, land, training, technology, knowledge and information, and ensure that citizens and local communities participate in decision-making on social development policies and programmes in this regard;

10. *Recognizes* the need to formulate social development policies in an integral, articulated and participative manner, recognizing poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon, calls for interlinked public policies on this matter, underlines the need for public policies to be included in a comprehensive development and well-being strategy, and invites Governments to consider developing complementary measures that better reflect the multidimensionality of poverty;

11. *Also recognizes* that the social integration of people living in poverty should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including nutrition, health, water, sanitation, housing and access to education and employment, through integrated development strategies;

12. *Further recognizes* the need to promote respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as to the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that these are critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease and to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, as well as strengthening their economic independence;

14. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to promote opportunities for full, freely chosen and productive employment, including for the disadvantaged, as well as decent work for all, with full respect for fundamental principles and rights at work under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and further reaffirms that macroeconomic policies should, inter alia, support employment creation, taking fully into account the social and environmental impact and dimensions of globalization, and that these concepts are key elements of sustainable development for all countries and are therefore a priority objective of international cooperation;

15. *Further reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

16. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, recognizes that decent work remains one of the best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to support Member States, in particular developing countries, in their efforts to promote full and productive employment and decent work for all, taking into account the resolution entitled "Recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact", adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session;

17. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms to social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

18. *Also reaffirms* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, and in this context recalls the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, adopted at the World Education Forum in 2000;[22]

19. *Recalls* the commitment, undertaken at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, to redouble our efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality and improve the health of women and children, including through strengthened national health systems, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, improved nutrition and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, making use of enhanced global partnerships;

20. *Notes with grave concern* the vicious cycle whereby non-communicable diseases and their risk factors worsen poverty, while poverty contributes to rising rates of non-communicable diseases, posing a threat to public health and economic and social development, and in this regard stresses the importance of the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, including through multisectoral actions, and encourages the continued inclusion of non-communicable diseases in development cooperation agendas and initiatives;

21. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably, and in that regard calls upon States to promote more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains through, inter alia, policies

[22] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

that ensure inclusive labour markets and by implementing socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which employment has a key role and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, including through social protection floors, including for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations;

22. *Underlines* the need for substantial additional investment and better policies and enhanced international cooperation in support of sustainable agricultural development, while paying special attention to the diversification of rural incomes, including by promoting the development of microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises among the rural poor;

23. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.70 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

24. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and support labour market participation, and also urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a systemic base to address poverty and vulnerability;

25. *Encourages* Member States to design and implement policies and strategies for poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, including the promotion of full and productive employment that is appropriately and adequately remunerated, as well as policies and strategies for social integration that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and that address the specific needs of social groups such as young people, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and indigenous peoples, taking into account the concerns of these groups in the planning, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and policies;

26. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socio-economic approaches to overcoming poverty and inequality;

27. *Stresses* that the international community shall enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

28. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

29. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and regional and civil society organizations, to share the good practices of programmes and policies which address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

30. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts of Member States to achieve inclusive social development in a coherent and coordinated manner;

31. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", policy recommendations on the issue of eradication of poverty, taking into account the discussions held at the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development under the priority theme.

Draft resolution IV
Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009 and 66/126 of 19 December 2011 concerning the proclamation, preparations for, and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparation for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provide a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Recognizing also that the follow-up to the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development until 2014,

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 60-63.

Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Stressing the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large,

Recognizing that the overall objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes continue to guide national and international efforts to improve family well-being worldwide,

Emphasizing that it is necessary to increase coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family-related issues in order to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014[23] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be taken to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to review annually the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as part of its agenda and of its multi-year programme of work until 2014;

4. *Also requests* the Commission for Social Development to adopt the following themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family: (a) poverty eradication: confronting family poverty and social exclusion; (b) full employment and decent work: ensuring work-family balance; (c) social integration: advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national level;

6. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen or, if necessary, establish relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies and to research the impact of social policies on families;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies to address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity and share good practices in those areas;

[23] A/67/61-E/2012/3.

8. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt effective means of delivering family-centred benefits, including social protection and social transfer programmes, including cash transfer programmes to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, including flexible part-time job opportunities and arrangements, promote gender equality and empowerment of women and enhance paternal involvement and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

10. *Encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity through the provision of social protection schemes, including pensions, and investment in cross-generational facilities, youth and older persons' volunteering, mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

11. *Recommends* United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, and invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions, to work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, including the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

12. *Encourages* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to participate in the preparatory process of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation in this regard;

13. *Invites* Member States, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

14. *Invites* Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of, and preparations for, the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and share good practices and data on family policy development to be included in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

Draft resolution V
Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[24] and of the twenty-fourth special session of

* For the discussion, see chap. III, paras. 64-68.

[24] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[25]

Recalling also the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[26] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[27] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[28] in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

Recalling further its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and further promotion of equalization of opportunities and mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Welcoming the fact that, since the opening for signature on 30 March 2007 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto,[29] one hundred and fifty-three States have signed and one hundred and nine States and one regional integration organization have ratified the Convention and ninety States have signed and sixty-three States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and encouraging all States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention and the Optional Protocol,

Noting that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides comprehensive coverage of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities,

Noting also that persons with disabilities, who face a greater risk of living in absolute poverty, make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population,[30] of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries,[31] and recognizing the importance of international cooperation in supporting national efforts to mainstream disability in the development agenda, in particular for developing countries,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, and promoting the use of universal design as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development, and promoting their equal enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

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[25] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[26] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV), adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/52.

[27] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[28] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

[29] Ibid., annex II.

[30] According to the *Report on Disability 2011*, published by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population lives with a disability.

[31] In General Assembly resolution 65/186 it is stated that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 10 per cent of the world's population, of whom 80 per cent live in developing countries. The figure of 80 per cent, which originated from the United Nations Development Programme, was quoted widely in a discussion paper entitled "Disability and poverty: a survey of World Bank poverty assessments and implications" (Jeanine Braithwaite and Daniel Mont, SP discussion paper No. 0805, World Bank, February 2008).

Noting that while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of the collection and compilation of national data and information regarding the situation of persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics, that are disaggregated by gender and age, which could be used by Governments to enable their development policy planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation to be disability-sensitive, in particular in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities, while reiterating the request to the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance within existing resources, including the provision of assistance, in particular to developing countries, for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on disabilities,

Underlining the importance of mobilizing resources at all levels for the successful implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recognizing the importance of international cooperation and its promotion in support of national efforts, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation in combating discrimination based on disability and mainstreaming disability in the global development agenda for the promotion of the linkages between disability and global development priorities, including, inter alia, poverty reduction and sustainable development,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of the General Assembly to hold a one-day High-level Meeting, at the level of Heads of State and Government, at the sixty-eighth session, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", in order to strengthen efforts to ensure accessibility for and inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;[32]

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his report;[33]

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support the objectives of the Trust Fund, including by providing voluntary contributions;

5. *Calls upon* Member States and United Nations bodies and agencies to include disability issues and persons with disabilities in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, in reviewing progress towards the achievement of the Goals, to assess the extent to which persons with disabilities have benefited from those efforts;

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[32] E/CN.5/2012/6.
[33] E/CN.5/2012/7.

6. *Encourages* all Member States, concerned intergovernmental organizations, international and regional organizations, civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector to engage in cooperative arrangements and strategic partnerships to facilitate technical cooperation to advance disability-inclusive development;

7. *Also encourages* stakeholders at the regional and subregional levels to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in all forms of development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in order to build collaborative frameworks for mainstreaming disability, including the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, at the national level;

8. *Further encourages* Member States, the United Nations system, within its existing resources, and other stakeholders to improve data and statistics on disability, taking into account existing guidelines published by the United Nations, as a basis for strengthening evidence-based policymaking, and to share good practices and experiences in order to overcome barriers and further advance disability-inclusive development;

9. *Urges* the United Nations to enhance partnerships for international cooperation between the United Nations system and regional and subregional organizations and to enhance its role in forging partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, in particular with organizations of persons with disabilities and the private sector, to provide opportunities and forums, within existing resources, for promoting linkages between disability and the mainstream development agenda;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to seize every opportunity to include disability as a cross-cutting issue in the global development agenda, including in the setting-up of the post-2015 United Nations development framework, in the dialogues and outcomes of relevant United Nations development conferences and in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review process, as appropriate;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that women and girls with disabilities are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation in the implementation of the international development goals, and to eliminate existing inequalities between women and men with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to collaborate, as appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, including special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with his or her mandate;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session an annual report on his activities on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-first session as a contribution to the upcoming High-level Meeting of the General Assembly.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fiftieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fiftieth session;[34]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to strengthen the work of the Commission for Social Development

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

(a) Priority theme: promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

[34] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 6* (E/2012/26).

(ii) Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(v) Family issues, policies and programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at all levels

Report of the Secretary-General on the modalities for the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development

(c) Emerging issues (to be determined).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2014-2015;

(b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat on the draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 2014-2015

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-second session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-first session.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 50/101
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents that were before it at its fiftieth session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;[35]

(b) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment.[36]

[35] E/CN.5/2012/5.
[36] E/CN.5/2012/8.

Chapter II

Organizational matters: further review of the methods of work of the Commission

4. The Commission considered the review of its methods of work, under agenda item 2, at its 2nd, 11th and 12th meetings, on 1 and 10 February 2012.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At the 11th meeting, on 10 February, the Vice-Chair, Susanne Fries-Gaier (Germany), made a statement in which she brought to the attention of the Commission a draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development" (E/CN.5/2012/L.4), submitted by her on the basis of informal consultations.

6. Also at its 11th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.4 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

7. At its 12th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission decided, on the proposal of the Bureau and by consensus, to reconsider and then to repeat the action on draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.4, which had been previously adopted by the Commission at the 11th meeting.

8. Subsequently, at the 12th meeting, following a statement by the Vice-Chair, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.4 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

9. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 12th meetings, on 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10 February 2012. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/CN.5/2012/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication (E/CN.5/2012/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2012/5);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (E/CN.5/2012/6);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2012/7);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment (E/CN.5/2012/8);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/67/61-E/2012/3);

(h) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2012/NGO/1-28).

10. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February 2012, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

11. At the 11th meeting, on 10 February, the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2012/L.5).

12. Subsequently, Austria,[37] Finland,[37] France, Greece,[37] Luxembourg,[37] Portugal[37] and Slovenia[37] joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and proceeded to act on draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.5.

[37] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

15. At the 11th meeting, following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

16. At its 12th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission decided, on the proposal of the Bureau and by consensus, to reconsider and then to repeat the action on draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.5, which had been previously adopted by the Commission at the 11th meeting.

17. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair, Mohamed Ibrahim Elbahi (Sudan), in his capacity as facilitator, orally revised the draft resolution.

18. Also at the same meeting, the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.5, as orally revised.

19. Subsequently, Austria,[37] Cyprus,[37] Finland,[37] France, Greece,[37] Luxembourg,[37] Portugal,[37] Slovenia[37] and Sweden joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 12th meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and proceeded to act on the draft resolution.

21. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

A. Priority theme: poverty eradication

22. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd to 5th, 9th and 12th meetings, on 1, 2, 6 and 10 February 2012.

23. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February, statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (on behalf of MERCOSUR and in his national capacity), the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden and Peru.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community) and Finland.

25. At its 4th meeting, on 2 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Japan, Egypt, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Cuba, Senegal, Brazil, the Republic of Korea and Italy.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Angola (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), Mali, South Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Indonesia, Colombia, Israel, Luxembourg and Barbados.

27. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Triglav Circle, the International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization and Baha'i International Community, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made statements.

28. At its 5th meeting, on 2 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Cameroon, Gabon, the United States of America, France, El Salvador, Nigeria, Haiti, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Armenia.

29. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Tunisia (on behalf of the African States), Ecuador, Botswana, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Ukraine and Australia.

30. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa and the International Labour Organization made statements.

31. At the 5th meeting, the representative of the Qatar Charitable Society, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made a statement.

32. At the same meeting, statements in the exercise of the right of reply were made by the observers for the Syrian Arab Republic and Israel.

33. At its 9th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Nepal and Pakistan.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Yemen, Georgia, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Iraq and Zambia.

35. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the Holy See made a statement.

36. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the International Organization for Migration.

37. At the same meeting, the representatives of the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made statements.

38. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made statements: International Committee for Arab-Israeli Reconciliation; Fraternité Notre Dame; Baltic Sea Forum; Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants; International Federation for Family Development; World Youth Alliance; Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries; International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics; Passionists International; International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; and SustainUS.

Panel discussion and presentation under the priority theme

39. At its 3rd meeting, on 1 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme "Poverty eradication" and heard presentations by the following panellists: Jesper Oestrup Zwisler, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs, Denmark, on behalf of Karen Hækkerup, Minister for Social Affairs, Social Security and Integration, Denmark; Hoda Rashad, Director and Research Professor, Social

Research Center of the American University, Cairo; Armando Barrientos, Professor and Research Director, Brooks World Poverty Institute, and Senior Researcher, Chronic Poverty Research Centre; and Su Guoxia, Deputy Director, Department of Policy and Regulations, State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, China. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Mexico, Senegal and Italy, as well as the observers for Botswana and Sri Lanka, participated. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: HelpAge International; the International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the International Association of Applied Psychology; and the International Council on Social Welfare. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available at http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)

Priority theme: poverty eradication

40. At its 12th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and proceeded to act on draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.7, entitled "Poverty eradication", which was submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Jorge Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), on the basis of informal consultations.

41. At the same meeting, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made a statement, in his capacity as facilitator of the draft resolution.

42. Also at the same meeting, draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.7 was withdrawn by the Chair.

43. At the 12th meeting, the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) reintroduced draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.7 and orally revised the text. The revised text was subsequently issued as E/CN.5/2012/L.8.

44. At the same meeting, statements on points of order were made by the representatives of France, the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

45. Also at the same meeting, the observer for Algeria informed the Commission on the status of negotiations on the draft resolution.

46. At its 12th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

47. At the same meeting, the Chair responded to questions raised by the representatives of the United States and Germany.

48. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Egypt sought clarifications, to which the Secretary responded.

49. At the 12th meeting, in accordance with rule 55 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Chair proposed that the Commission reconsider the draft resolution that it had just adopted.

50. At the same meeting, statements against the motion to reconsider the proposal were made by the representatives of Cuba and Egypt and the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

51. Also at the same meeting, the Commission, by a recorded vote of 22 to 2, with 12 abstentions, rejected the motion to reconsider the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:[38]

In favour:

Argentina, France.

Against:

Armenia, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lesotho, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Albania, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America.

52. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, general statements were made by the representatives of the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, as well as by the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China).

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

53. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 2nd, 6th to 7th and 10th to 12th meetings, on 1, 3, 9 and 10 February 2012.

54. At its 6th meeting, on 3 February, the Commission heard a presentation by Shuaib Chalklen, Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, during which the representatives of Mexico and Egypt and the observers for Australia and Norway, as well as the observer for the European Union, participated.

55. At the same meeting, the Commission began its general discussion of agenda item 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Zimbabwe, Japan, Argentina, China, the Republic of Korea, Ghana, Italy and Viet Nam.

56. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Iceland,

[38] The delegations of Argentina, Brazil and Qatar subsequently indicated that they had intended to vote against the motion.

Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Thailand, Austria, Romania, Norway and Malta.

57. At the 6th meeting, the observer for the African Union made a statement.

58. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America; International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Special event on financing of social development

59. At its 7th meeting, on 3 February, the Commission held a special event on financing of social development. Following the opening remarks by the Vice-Chair (Sudan) and the Moderator, Director of the Financing for Development Office, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Elliot Harris, Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations; Christine Bockstal, Chief, Technical Cooperation and Country Operations Group, Social Security Department, International Labour Organization; Eva-Maria Hanfstaengl, Co-founder and Director, Social Justice in Global Development; and Elias Eljuri Abraham, President, National Institute of Statistics, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and France and the observers for Poland and Sri Lanka, as well as the observer for the European Union, participated. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse; Passionists International; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd; VIVAT International; and International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available at http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

60. At the 10th meeting, on 9 February, the observer for Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family" (E/CN.5/2012/L.3).

61. At its 11th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.3 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

62. At its 12th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission decided, on the proposal of the Bureau and by consensus, to reconsider and then to repeat the action on draft

resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.3, which had been previously adopted by the Commission at the 11th meeting.

63. Subsequently, at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

64. At the 11th meeting, on 10 February, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the Vice-Chair and facilitator of the draft resolution, Ana Marie Hernando (Philippines), made a statement and revised the draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda" (E/CN.5/2012/L.6), submitted by the Vice-Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

65. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption.

66. At its 12th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission decided, on the proposal of the Bureau and by consensus, to reconsider and then to repeat the action on draft resolution E/CN.5/2012/L.6, which had been previously adopted by the Commission at the 11th meeting.

67. Subsequently, at the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the Vice-Chair and facilitator of the draft resolution, revised the draft resolution.

68. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

C. Emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment

Panel discussion and presentation on emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment

69. At its 8th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment. Following an opening statement by the Vice-Chair (Sudan), the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; Gianni Rosas, Coordinator, Programme on Youth Employment, International Labour Organization; and Inés van de Kerchove Baraibar, Coordinator, Uruguay Works Programme. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of Japan, Spain, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea, as well as the observer for Belgium, participated. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: International Movement ATD Fourth World; the World Youth Alliance; and the International Eurasia Press Fund. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available at http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx.

Chapter IV
Programme questions and other matters

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

70. At the 10th meeting, on 9 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement under agenda item 4, in which the Commission's attention was brought to the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015: subprogramme 3, Social policy and development, circulated in an informal paper E/CN.5/2012/CRP.1.

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission

71. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 12th meeting, on 10 February 2012. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission, as contained in document E/CN.5/2012/L.2.

72. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-first session (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter VI
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

73. At the 12th meeting, on 10 February, Olisa Cifligu (Albania), Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Commission, introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fiftieth session (E/CN.5/2012/L.1).

74. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

75. The Commission for Social Development held its fiftieth session at United Nations Headquarters on 18 February 2011 and from 1 to 10 February 2012. The Commission held 12 meetings (1st to 12th).

76. At the 2nd meeting, on 1 February, the Chair of the Commission opened the regular session and made a statement.

77. At the same meeting, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

78. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development made a statement on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum held on 31 January 2012.

B. Attendance

79. The session was attended by representatives of 43 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2012/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

80. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.

81. At the 1st meeting of its fiftieth session, held on 18 February 2011, pursuant to decision 2002/210, the Commission re-elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:

Jorge Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)

Vice-Chairs:

Olisa Cifligu (Albania)
Susanne Fries-Gaier (Germany)
Eduardo Meñez (Philippines)
Najla Abdelrahman (Sudan)

82. At its 2nd meeting, on 1 February 2012, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation to fill vacancies arising from the resignations of the Vice-Chairs from the Groups of African States and Asia-Pacific States:

Vice-Chairs:
Ana Marie Hernando (Philippines)
Mohamed Ibrahim Elbahi (Sudan)

83. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Olisa Cifligu (Albania), as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

84. At its 2nd meeting on 1 February 2012, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/2012/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: poverty eradication;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
      (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;
   (c) Emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment.
4. Programme questions and other matters.
5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fiftieth session.

85. At the same meeting, following an oral correction made by the Secretary of the Commission, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.5/2012/1, annex I, as orally corrected, and established time limits for statements in the general discussion.

E. Documentation

86. The list of documents before the Commission at its fiftieth session is contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
A/67/61-E/2012/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014
E/CN.5/2012/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.5/2012/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2012/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on poverty eradication
E/CN.5/2012/5	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
E/CN.5/2012/6	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
E/CN.5/2012/7	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
E/CN.5/2012/8	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: youth: poverty and unemployment
E/CN.5/2012/L.1	6	Draft report of the Commission on its fiftieth session
E/CN.5/2012/L.2	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2012/L.3	3 (b)	Draft resolution entitled "Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family"
E/CN.5/2012/L.4	2	Draft resolution entitled "Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development"

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.5/2012/L.5	3	Draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development"
E/CN.5/20 12/L.6	3 (b)	Draft resolution entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda"
E/CN.5/2012/L.7	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Poverty eradication"
E/CN.5/2012/L.8	3 (a)	Draft resolution entitled "Poverty eradication"
E/CN.5/2012/CRP.1	4	Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015: subprogramme 3, Social policy and development
E/CN.5/2012/NGO/1-28	3 (a)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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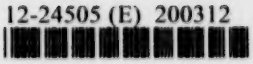

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